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THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on a Speech without Doors. *On the Affairs of Admiral* Graydon.

From **Saturday** February the 5th, to **Wednesday** February the 9th, 17c4.

Country-m. MAfter *Obſervator*, I have picked up another Paper for your peruſual, it is called, *A Speech without Doors*. The Author gives a high Encomium on Her Majeſty, and yet at the latter End of his Speech he falls very foul upon her Officers, I don't ſee the *Coherence* of this Mans Diſcourſe.

Obſ. Oh 'tis very plain. I'll tell thee a Story. Once upon a Time King *Charles* the 2d of *Pious Memory*, went in his Coach to the City of *London*, to Dine with his Loyal Citizens, and I muſt give you to underſtand, that Prince lov'd *Dogs* and *Hounds*; I don't mean thoſe *Hounds*, *Harry-Clitus* ſpeaks off, for he kept them from Hunting as much as poſſibly could be; ſo I ſay, as he was going into the City, abundance of People flock'd about his Coach, and the King perceiving one Fellow in particular, that preſs'd and laid his Hand on the Coach door, one of the Kings *Dogs* Snarling at the Fellow, the King ſaid, Honeſt Fellow have a Care my *Dog* do's not bite thee; which the Man not heeding, the *Dog* at laſt Snapt him by the Hand, at which the Fellow crys out, *God bleſs Your Majeſty, but the Devil take your Dogs*; 'tis a Homely Compariſon, but I have liv'd ſo long in the *Country* that my Diſcourſe grows Ruſtick, which is no great matter, provided it be Honeſt. I tell thee, Honeſt *Country-man*, I have as much Affection for Her Majeſties *Government* as any Free-Born *Engliſhman* ought to have, and yet I have a juſt *Averſion* to the Evil Officers Employ'd under her; and this out of *Love* to the Queen, whoſe *Government* is render'd Infirm by their *Pernicious Management*: As the Queen and her People cannot, without danger to the *Community*, have ſeperate Intereſts, ſo we ought not to conſider them Separately; but as the well being of both depends upon the *Publick Safety*. This *Speech-maker* without Doors, ſays, We never had ſuch a Queen, and never ſuch a *Houſe of Commons*. I believe ſo too, I wiſh Her Majeſty all Health and Happineſs, but am loath to ſtint her Life; the Lives of Princes are in the Hands of Almighty Power, and they ſhall Live no longer than ſeems Good to his *Infinite Wiſdom*; God gave us one King in his Wrath, and took away our late *Glorious Soveraign* in his ſore Diſpleaſure: We that were an Ungrateful and Murmuring People in the late Reign, under the Serene and Gentle Reign of the *Glorious William*, are moſt likely, by the Inveteracy of our Tempers, to cauſe God in his Anger to remove the Pious *ANN*, our preſent National Bleſſing. The only way to keep Good Princes on the Throne, is for us to be a Good People; which we can never be, under the Violence of *Popular Heats* and *Diviſions*.

If our *Speech-maker* had ſaid nothing of the *Occaſional Bill*, he would have ſpoken to no Purpoſe. Says he, *We have ſeen the Reſult of that* Bill, *and how unſucceſsful the* Commons *have been for the ſecurity of the* Beſt, *and truly* Catholick Religion; *while the* Fathers *of the Church have ſhewn leſs Affection to its Service, than the* Sons *of it*; *and thoſe that ſerve at the* Altars *have paid leſs deference to the* Divine Majeſty, *than thoſe they ſhould give their Benedictions to.*

This Man had not anſwered the Character of a *High-Flyer*, had he not Reflected on the preſent Biſhops; he ſays, in plain Words, *That the Biſhops have made unſucceſsful the* Commons *Endeavours for the Security of the truly* Catholick Religion. This is ſo high a Reflection on the *Lords*, the *Biſhops*, that every good *Engliſhman* and *Chriſtian*, ought to deteſt ſuch a Notion. The truly *Catholick Religion* is to be ſecured by Principles truly *Religious*, that is, by reſtraining Men from *Vice* and *Immorality*, ſuch as *Swearing*, *Curſing*, *Drunkenneſs*, &c. By reſtraining *Irreligion*, *Atheiſm*, and *Prophaneſs*; and a *Bill* of this Nature, the *Lords*, the *Biſhops* never oppoſed; and 'tis a ſtrange Age we live in, that the Opinion of the *Sons* ſhould be Prefer'd to that of the *Fathers*. Time has been when Age was Honourable, and a *Hoary-Head* was eſteem'd a *Crown* of *Glory*, but *Tempora Mutantur*, the *Boys* of the Church, have now got the Aſcendant; they mount into the Air like *Sky-Rockets*, they ſee *Viſions*, and talk of things that can neither be *Seen*, *Felt*, *Heard* or *Underſtood*, by any but themſelves.

Our Modern Scribblers have not gone thro their Taſk, unleſs they Reflect alſo on the *Lords Temporal*; that Bulwark of the *Engliſh Liberties* ſtands in their way; and tho' they are briſk enough themſelves to leap over it, thoſe People that are grown heavy with Conſideration, cannot follow, and ſo they are willing to Pave the way for them, by laying it Level with the Ground. Says our *Speech-Writer*, 'We have heard that a Bill brought in 'for the Honour of the *Epiſcopal Government*, has 'been ſaid to be an *Ill One*, *Becauſe ſuch a L——d 'ſaid it was Permicious*; and are like, when any 'thing ſhall be offer'd again of the ſame Nature, 'to meet with the ſame Treatment; And is it 'not high time to look about us?

Yes, indeed is it; when every Impudent Scribbler ſhall take upon him to Cenſure that Noble Body of Peers in Parliament; who, as their Glorious Predeceſſors, have been the Security of *Engliſh* Liberties in Ages paſt, ſo at preſent are they the other hope of the Publick Safety; and had they not at this Conjuncture reſerved enough of the *Waters of Peace* in their Ciſterns, to Quench the Impetuous Flames of popular Feuds, Our Iſland had been but as one *Beacon*, ſet on Fire, to Light any Enemy to our Deſtruction. How he can prove that the *Occaſional-Bill* was for the *Honour of Epiſcopal Government*; and how far the Church is concerned in the Diſtribution of *Civil Employments*, is a Queſtion that requires good Proof, and a ſolid Anſwer. But 'tis a piece of the higheſt Impudence to ſay, That the *Houſe of Peers* ſhould at any time Condemn a Bill as an *Ill One*; for no other Reaſon, than that *Such a Lord ſaid it was Pernicious*; as if that *Noble* and *Auguſt* Body flung

out

out Bills, as *Courtiers* chuſe Officers, in their Turns. As we never had a *Houſe of Lords* more Vigorous in the Defence of the Peoples Liberty, ſo never had we a Race of Peers Endow'd with more *Reaſon*, *Learning*, and *Natural Faculties*, which muſt give the Lie to any One who ſhall affirm they Act Hand over Head, or can be byaſs'd by any one particular Perſon. Compariſons are odious, yet compare their Addreſſes, and the Publick *Reaſons* of their Proceedings, with other Writings for the Proof of the One; and their ſtedfaſt adhering to their own Rights, and thoſe of the People, for the Confirmation of the Other. Let any Rational Man Judge whether they are Byaſs'd or Sway'd either by Particular Perſons, or Politick Bodies, and whether their Determinations are not made upon *Mature Conſideration*, and founded on *Fundamental Reaſons*. And ſhall Private Perſons think themſelves Aggriev'd under Reflections for their Services to their Country, when ſo Great and Powerful a Body as that of the Peers, is not out of the reach of *Inveterate Malice* and *Envy*.

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator*, Hitherto this *Speech-Maker* has prov'd himſelf a Knight of the Order of *Tantivy*. Pray, Sir, has he no Reflections on the Pious Memory of King *William*, to compleat His Character.

Obſ. Yes, yes, you may beſure of that; that's the common *Witchery* now a days, by which ſuch People ſave their Bacon. He ſays, *One Reign has already given us an Inſight into the great value Foreigners are like to ſhew to the Eſtabliſh'd Church; and what has been, may be.* This Man is certainly a *Sextons* Brat, and Begotten in the *Bellfrey*; his Mind runs on nothing but the Church; and yet, perhaps, he has no more *Religion* in him, than one of thy Cart-Horſes. But I can't tell what harm King *William* did the Church of *England*, unleſs his Creating of *Pious* and *Learned Biſhops*, and his Countenancing of *Vertue*, and Diſcouraging of *Vice*, may be counted a Crime. But ſee how prettily he Fore-judges the Reign of the Houſe of *Hannover*, *What has been, may be.* Yes, and I hope, and I am perſwaded all *Engliſhmen* and *Proteſtants* with it may be ſo, that the Houſe of *Hannover* may Govern for the Good of this Kingdom, as did the Glorious *William*.

Country-m. In good Truth, Maſter *Obſervator*, this Man is a *Perkinite*, he ſmells ſtrong of *Toaſted Cheeſe* and *Leeks*. I'll prove it plainly, He's againſt King *William*, againſt the Houſe of *Hannover*, againſt our Noble *Patriots*, the *Houſe of Peers*, againſt our *Lords* the *Biſhops*, and conſequently againſt our Soveraign Lady, Queen *Ann*, and then of Courſe he is for *Perkin*, for *Wooden-Shoes*, a *French Government*, and the *Devil and all his Works*; a pretty fellow for a *Churchman*, upon my Honour.

Obſ. I heartily Concur with our Author in his Main Poſition of the Neceſſity of Enquiries into Publick Miſmanagements, and in particular into that of the *Navy*; but without any Reſpect to Perſons or Parties, but only for the Publick Safety. And I can here aſſure you, that if ſome Perſons who were mighty Sticklers for the *Occaſional Conformity Bill*, would have Countenanc'd Complaints of *Naval Miſmanagements*, the State of the Navy had now been in a much better Condition. I can tell you that the Abuſes in the *Victualling* was offer'd to the Conſideration of ſuch who had a Power to Redreſs them; above a Twelve Months time before that Complaint was laid before the *Houſe of Peers*, which had they been timely Redreſs'd, we had ſav'd the Lives of many of our Sailors, which are as ſo many Stones taken out of our *National Walls*, and which by conſtant Dilapidations, will moulder and fall to decay; and like Breaches in Sea Fences, will Drown the Land. I think all things ought to give way to the Publick Good, and the Conſiderations of our Publick Defence, are far before thoſe of Parties.

Country-m. I am glad it is come into my Head, I have a *Cordial* will refreſh your Spirits; I am told by a very Honeſt Gentleman, that the *Lords* have Ordered ſeveral Things to be laid before them, and amongſt them, the particular of the *Expedition* of Admiral *Graydon*.

Obſ. Fiat Juſtia, Let Juſtice be done to all Offenders, of what Quality or Degree ſoever; that Affair of Admiral *Graydon* is Unprecedented, as far as I can find, in all the *Engliſh Records* and *Naval Archives*; and yet I don't pretend to accuſe the Admiral with want of *Duty* and *Performance* of Orders. Thoſe who have preſided in the Admiralty, in Caſe of *Important Expedition*, have given Orders to the Commanders in chief of the *Squadron*, not to go out of their Way to ſpeak with the Enemy, *i. e.* out of their Latitude; but I never knew before, that our *Commanders* have been Order'd to forbear Fighting when they ſhould come fair up with the Enemy; for that in Effect is giving them a *Commiſſion* to run away from the Enemy where-ever they ſhould find him; as to the Advantages or Diſadvantages of not Fighting at that Time, as to the Intelligence had, or which might have been had of *Du Caſs*'s Return for *Europe* at that Time, with other things relating to that *Expedition*, it is now under the Enquiry of the beſt Judges, and therefore I ſhall reſt my ſelf Contented in the Poſture of this Affair.

But I could heartily wiſh that Enquiry was made, how the Officers of the Ships ſent as Convoy to the *Ruſſia* Fleet, behaved themſelves on the *Lords-day* at *Arch-Angel*; how many days and nights the *Commanders* were aſhore at the *Factory*; when, according to the Antient Diſcipline of the *Old Engliſh* Navy, the *Commander* that lies but one Night aſhore, ought to be Caſhier'd.

'Twould be a ſeaſonable Enquiry how we loſt ſo many Ships loaden with *Tobacco*, in the laſt *Virginia* Fleet; and whether a *Commander* of a Ship of War, who loaded his Ship with *Pipe-Staves*, *Maſts*, and other things to a Degree, that he could not play any of his Guns on the *Lower-Deck*, in Caſe of an Engagement, ought to be cleared by a *Court Martial?* I could mention many other things; but *Rome* was not Built in a Day.

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